

invitation of the British Federation of University Women, during July 27–August 1. Crosby Hall, which was requisitioned during the War, is re-opening as an international hall of residence and club for university women on August 6, immediately after the Council meeting. A large number of countries will be represented at the Council, including the Argentine, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Finland, France, India, Ireland, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Palestine, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States. At a discussion meeting: "Bridging the Gap—1940 to 1945" on Sunday, July 28, three speakers will describe the experiences of university women during the War in the occupied, non-occupied and neutral countries respectively; and on July 30, Prof. Lise Meitner will give a public lecture on "Atoms and Atomic Energy" at Chatham House. The International Federation of University Women, which was founded in 1919 to promote understanding and friendship between university women of different nationalities, and thus to develop co-operation between their countries, had in 1939 a membership through its affiliated associations of nearly 80,000; there has been a considerable growth in membership during the war years, the estimated total being now about 94,000. The greatest proportionate increase has been recorded in the associations of the liberated countries. Since the liberation, several schemes have been launched by different national associations, including the British Federation, to help university women in the liberated countries to recuperate after the strain of enemy occupation, and to resume their professional careers and intellectual life.

D.D.T. <sup>5k</sup>

1.1-bis-(4 chlorophenyl)-2.2.2-trichloroethane, produced in Switzerland in the early years of the War, was the first synthetic contact insecticide which could rival in efficiency and cost the vegetable products pyrethrum and derris. Information about it reached Great Britain and the United States at a time when the world shortage of pyrethrum, combined with increasing demands from the armies of the United Nations, was causing great anxiety among those responsible for military hygiene. On both sides of the Atlantic official committees of experts were convened to advise and to co-ordinate research. In Great Britain most of these activities were centred in the Insecticides Development Panel of the Ministry of Production under the chairmanship of Sir Ian Heilbron. The work of these committees largely resolved itself into the development of applications of D.D.T. for the special purposes of controlling mosquitoes, flies, lice and other insects of military importance. The results of investigations and trials were circulated in numerous reports produced in Britain, the Dominions and the United States, and freely interchanged. Many of the reports were at the time marked 'Secret' or 'Confidential' and the information appearing in the popular press was apt to be highly coloured or inaccurate. Some of these reports have since been published; but the main results, both published and unpublished, have now been brought together in the form of a pamphlet issued by the Ministry of Supply, entitled "Some Properties and Applications of D.D.T." (London: H.M. Stationery Office. 6d. net). This pamphlet includes a brief summary of some of the agricultural and horticultural uses of D.D.T.

## Research on Rodent Control

THE Department of Animal Health of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, has accepted the offer of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare to endow a research studentship for work in rodent ecology, the object of such work being the search for humane and efficient methods of controlling rodent populations; and Miss Winifred Maisie Phillips will be the first holder of the studentship. The grant (£180 for the research student and up to £170 for travelling and subsistence expenses) has been made for one year in the first instance, but it is understood that the Federation is prepared to continue the support for up to three years should the results justify this. It is anticipated that the greater part of the field experimentation will be carried out on territory covered by the West Wales Field Society, to which the Federation has made an initial grant of £150 for the current year. The programme of work now envisaged falls into three parts: (a) A survey of the mammalian fauna of the islands visited by the West Wales Field Society and of selected mainland territory. The survey of the islands was suggested by Mr. Charles Elton and the estimates made should form the basis of future studies upon the effects of certain treatments. (b) Research on humane poisons for rats. This work follows from the Conference held at Oxford on May 10, 1945, between members of the staff of the Bureau of Animal Population and nominees of the Federation. (c) The control of rabbits with special reference to surface-dwelling rabbits in woodlands. Preliminary ecological work upon the rabbit was carried out before the War at the Bureau of Animal Population, Oxford, by Mr. H. N. Southern, with the aid of a grant from the Federation. The special study of surface-dwelling rabbits in woodlands was also suggested by Mr. Elton, and it is expected that suitable territory for investigation will be found on farms operated by, or associated with, the Department of Animal Health of University College, Aberystwyth.

## The Carlsberg Laboratory

WE are pleased to announce the resumption of the receipt of the *Comptes Rendus* of the Carlsberg Laboratory, published in Copenhagen. The Chemical Section, covering the period 1940–45, comprises twenty-eight parts, and it is not possible to summarize such a large amount of material. It is hoped, however, to deal with some of the papers in due course. The following may be mentioned: K. Linderstrøm-Lang and C. F. Jacobsen on the number of peptide bonds in insulin (23, No. 13), and on the properties of 2-methyl-thiazoline and their relation to the protein problem (23, No. 20); A. Søbørg Ohlsen on the histochemistry of the stomach (23, No. 21); A. Grønwall on the solubility of lactoglobulin (24, Nos. 8–11); K. Linderstrøm-Lang on solutions of diffusion equations (24, No. 13); H. Holter and K. Linderstrøm-Lang on the theory of the Cartesian diver (24, Nos. 17–18) and E. Zeuthen on a Cartesian diver micro-respirometer (24, No. 19).

## Commonwealth Fund Fellowships Awards

The Fellowships offered by the Commonwealth Fund of New York to British graduates for tenure in American universities have now been resumed after interruption by the War, and the Committee of Award has made the following appointments for

1946-47: Dr. Ronald Bentley, Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London, to Columbia University, in chemistry; Dr. K. L. Blaxter, University of Reading, to the University of Illinois, in agriculture; Dr. A. H. Cruickshank, University of Aberdeen, to Johns Hopkins University, in medicine; Dr. C. E. Dalglish, Trinity College, Cambridge, to Harvard University, in chemistry; P. V. Danckwerts, Balliol College, Oxford, to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in engineering; A. B. Drought, University of Liverpool, to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in architecture; J. W. Garmany, Rhodes University College, University of South Africa, and Queen's College, Oxford, to Princeton University, in economics; G. O. Jones, Emmanuel College, Cambridge, to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in engineering; J. P. Keane, University of Wales, Cardiff, and University of London, to Harvard University, in economics, political theory and public administration; Charles Kembell, Trinity College, Cambridge, to Princeton University, in chemistry; A. M. McKelvie, University of Glasgow, to the Mayo Clinic, in medicine; F. S. Miles, University of St. Andrews, to Harvard University, in political science; D. G. Northcott, St. John's College, Cambridge, to Princeton University, in mathematics; Dr. D. J. O'Connor, Birkbeck College, University of London, to the University of Chicago, in philosophy; W. M. Ogston, New College, Oxford, to the California Institute of Technology, in engineering; D. J. Price, University of London, to the University of Pittsburg, in physics; J. H. Read, University of St. Andrews, and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, in cinematography; Cyril Reid, Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London, to the University of California, in engineering; I. P. Watt, St. John's College, Cambridge, to the University of California, in English literature; D. H. Whiffen, St. John's College, Oxford, to Cornell University, in chemistry.

### The Night Sky in August

FULL moon occurs on August 12d. 22h. 26m. U.T. and new moon on August 26d. 21h. 07m. The following conjunctions with the moon take place: Aug. 3d. 01h.; Jupiter  $4^{\circ}$  S.; Aug. 24d. 16h., Saturn  $3^{\circ}$  S.; Aug. 25d. 11h., Mercury  $4^{\circ}$  S.; Aug. 29d. 18h., Mars  $5^{\circ}$  S.; Aug. 30d. 11h., Venus  $6^{\circ}$  S.; Aug. 30d. 18h., Jupiter  $3^{\circ}$  S. In addition to these conjunctions with the moon, the following conjunctions occur: Aug. 9d. 14h., Venus in conjunction with Mars, Venus  $0.6^{\circ}$  S.; Aug. 31d. 00h., Venus in conjunction with Spica, Venus  $0.2^{\circ}$  N. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows: Aug. 15d. 23h. 00.8m., 24 B. Ceti (R); Aug. 21d. 00h. 10.7m., 129 H' Taur. (R). R refers to reappearance and the latitude of Greenwich is assumed. Mercury rises at 3h. 27m. and 3h. 52m. at the middle and end of the month respectively, and is visible in the eastern sky before sunrise. The planet is in inferior conjunction on Aug. 2 and is stationary on Aug. 12. Venus is a conspicuous object in the west, its times of setting being 21h. 12m., 20h. 36m., and 19h. 53m., at the beginning, middle and end of the month respectively. During the month the stellar magnitude of Venus varies from  $-3.7$  to  $-3.9$ . Mars can be seen in the earlier part of the month, setting at 21h. 18m. on Aug. 1, but as the planet sets 1h. 10m. after the sun on Aug. 15, it is not well placed for observation after that date. Jupiter sets

at 22h. 04m. on Aug. 1 and can be seen in the western sky in the constellation of Virgo. Towards the end of the month the planet is drawing too close to the sun for favourable observation. Saturn can be seen in the morning hours, rising at 3h. 40m. and 2h. at the beginning and end of the month respectively. The stellar magnitude of Saturn varies from  $0.4$  to  $0.5$  during August. The Perseid meteors attain their maximum about Aug. 10-12, but moonlight will prevent observations of any but very bright meteors during this period.

### Announcements

THE ROYAL SOCIETY is prepared to consider applications, through fellows of the Society, for a contribution towards the cost of travelling expenses when a scientific worker is invited for a specific purpose overseas by a national academy or other scientific institution of high standing.

DR. H. T. OPENSHAW, lecturer in chemistry in the University of Manchester, known for his research work in the field of alkaloid chemistry, has been appointed to the Purdie lectureship in the Chemistry Department of the United College of St. Salvator and St. Leonard, University of St. Andrews.

DR. F. D. RICHARDSON, of University College, London, and Commonwealth fellow at Princeton University, has been appointed head of the Chemistry Department of the British Iron and Steel Research Association. During the War Dr. Richardson, who is a physical chemist, served in the Royal Navy in a scientific capacity; he was associated with the development of equipment for dealing with magnetic mines, and eventually became deputy director of Miscellaneous Weapon Development.

ON the recommendation of the honorary managing committee of the Bureau of Hygiene and Tropical Diseases, the Secretary of State for the Colonies has confirmed the appointment of Dr. Charles Wilcocks as director of the Bureau, and has appointed Dr. H. J. O'D. Burke-Gaffney to be assistant director. Dr. J. F. Corson, who since July 1943 had given his help as acting assistant director of the Bureau, retired on June 30, 1946.

THE following have been elected officers of the Electrodepositors' Technical Society for 1946-47: *President*: Dr. S. Wernick; *Immediate Past President*: Dr. J. R. I. Hepburn; *Vice-Presidents*: Dr. H. J. T. Ellingham, Dr. G. E. Gardam, F. L. James; *Honorary Treasurer*: F. L. James; *Deputy Hon. Secretary*: S. W. Baier.

THE McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., New York, will publish shortly the complete texts of the papers and centennial addresses delivered at the George Westinghouse Centennial Forum, "Science and Life in the World", held under the sponsorship of the Westinghouse Educational Foundation during May 16-18. These symposia and addresses will be issued in the form of five books. In addition to the papers and addresses, the books will contain biographies of all of the speakers, a biographical sketch of George Westinghouse and his achievements, numerous portraits, text illustrations, and most of the audience questions and speakers' answers relative to each of the several papers. A list of all papers and addresses can be obtained from the McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., 330 West 42nd Street, New York.